

Amendments to the Claims

1      Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of preparing information usable in theft detection  
2      using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:  
3              creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction comprising a plurality of items  
4      being purchased together, as a function of one or more values; and  
5              storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of the items, such that  
6      correlator values stored in RFID tags affixed to a group of items can subsequently be compared  
7      to determine whether the items in the group were all purchased in one transaction.

1      Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of  
2      storing the unique correlator value in a database of previous transactions, such that the  
3      subsequent comparison can consult the database to determine whether any of the items in the  
4      group were purchased in any of the previous transactions if those items are determined not to  
5      have been purchased in the one transaction.

1      Claim 3 (previously presented): A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency  
2      identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:  
3              locating, in an RFID tag affixed to each of a plurality of items possessed by a shopper, a  
4      correlator value previously written therein as a unique, transaction-specific value; and  
5              concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were potentially not  
6      paid for if the located correlator value for the selected items is not identical to the located  
7      correlator value for the other possessed items.

1       Claim 4 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the steps  
2       of:

3           determining whether each of the selected items was paid for in a previous transaction by  
4       searching a database of previous transactions wherein correlator values of the previous  
5       transactions are stored, looking for the correlator value found in the RFID tag of that selected  
6       item; and

7           concluding that the selected item was paid for if the correlator value for that selected item  
8       is located in the determining step.

1       Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 3, wherein the previously-  
2       written correlator value was created, for a particular transaction comprising a plurality of items  
3       purchased together, using a function computed over one or more values, and was written in an  
4       RFID tag affixed to each of the items in the particular transaction, such that the items are thereby  
5       associated with one another, prior to operation of the locating step.

1       Claim 6 (original): The method according to Claim 3, wherein the concluding step concludes  
2       that selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the  
3       shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction  
4       represented by the correlator value was conducted.

1       Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of

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2 remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an  
3 establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and  
4 wherein the locating and concluding steps do not apply to the remembered items.

1 Claim 8 (previously presented): A system for preparing information usable in theft detection  
2 using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

3 means for creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction comprising a  
4 plurality of items being purchased together, as a function of one or more values; and  
5 means for storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of the items,  
6 such that correlator values stored in RFID tags affixed to a group of items can subsequently be  
7 compared to determine whether the items in the group were all purchased in one transaction.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 8, further comprising means for  
2 storing the unique correlator value in a database of previous transactions, such that the  
3 subsequent comparison can consult the database to determine whether any of the items in the  
4 group were purchased in any of the previous transactions if those items are determined not to  
5 have been purchased in the one transaction.

1 Claim 10 (previously presented): A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency  
2 identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

3 means for locating, in an RFID tag affixed to each of a plurality of items possessed by a  
4 shopper, a correlator value previously written therein as a unique, transaction-specific value; and

5 means for concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were  
6 potentially not paid for if the located correlator value for the selected items is not identical to the  
7 located correlator value for the other possessed items.

1 Claim 11 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 10, further comprising:  
2 means for determining whether each of the selected items was paid for in a previous  
3 transaction by searching a database of previous transactions wherein correlator values of the  
4 previous transactions are stored, looking for the correlator value found in the RFID tag of that  
5 selected item; and  
6 means for concluding that the selected item was paid for if the correlator value for that  
7 selected item is located by the means for determining.

1 Claim 12 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 10, wherein the previously-  
2 written correlator value was created, for a particular transaction comprising a plurality of items  
3 purchased together, using a function computed over one or more values, and was written in an  
4 RFID tag affixed to each of the items in the particular transaction, such that the items are thereby  
5 associated with one another, prior to operation of the means for locating.

1 Claim 13 (original): The system according to Claim 10, wherein the means for concluding  
2 concludes that selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in  
3 the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction  
4 represented by the correlator value was conducted.

1       Claim 14 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 10, further comprising means  
2       for remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an  
3       establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and  
4       wherein the means for locating and means for concluding do not apply to the remembered items.

1       Claim 15 (previously presented): A computer program product for preparing information usable  
2       in theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer  
3       program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4               computer-readable program code means for creating a unique correlator value, for a  
5       current transaction comprising a plurality of items being purchased together, as a function of one  
6       or more values; and

7               computer-readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value in an  
8       RFID tag affixed to each of the items, such that correlator values stored in RFID tags affixed to a  
9       group of items can subsequently be compared to determine whether the items in the group were  
10      all purchased in one transaction.

1       Claim 16 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 15, further  
2       comprising computer-readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value in a  
3       database of previous transactions, such that the subsequent comparison can consult the database  
4       to determine whether any of the items in the group were purchased in any of the previous  
5       transactions if those items are determined not to have been purchased in the one transaction.

1       Claim 17 (previously presented): A computer program product for detecting potential theft using  
2       radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on  
3       one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4               computer-readable program code means for locating, in an RFID tag affixed to each of a  
5       plurality of items possessed by a shopper, a correlator value previously written therein as a  
6       unique, transaction-specific value; and

7               computer-readable program code means for concluding that selected ones of the items  
8       possessed by the shopper were potentially not paid for if the located correlator value for the  
9       selected items is not identical to the located correlator value for the other possessed items.

1       Claim 18 (previously presented): The computer program product according to Claim 17, further  
2       comprising:

3               computer-readable program code means for determining whether each of the selected  
4       items was paid for in a previous transaction by searching a database of previous transactions  
5       wherein correlator values of the previous transactions are stored, looking for the correlator value  
6       found in the RFID tag of that selected item; and

7               computer-readable program code means for concluding that the selected item was paid for  
8       if the correlator value for that selected item is located by the computer-readable program code  
9       means for determining.

1       Claim 19 (previously presented): The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein

2 the previously-written correlator value was created, for a particular transaction comprising a  
3 plurality of items purchased together, using a function computed over one or more values, and  
4 was written in an RFID tag affixed to each of the items in the particular transaction, such that the  
5 items are thereby associated with one another, prior to operation of the computer-readable  
6 program code means for locating.

1 Claim 20 (original): The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein the  
2 computer-readable program code means for concluding concludes that selected ones of the  
3 possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's possession when the  
4 shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was  
5 conducted.

1 Claim 21 (previously presented): The computer program product according to Claim 17, further  
2 comprising computer-readable program code means for remembering each item that was in the  
3 shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction  
4 represented by the correlator value was conducted, and wherein the computer-readable program  
5 code means for locating and computer-readable program code means for concluding do not apply  
6 to the remembered items.